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CIHEAM
ZARAGOZA



Safe
Habitus

PROGRAMME

International symposium

The farmers of tomorrow: Skills, jobs and renewal pathways in times of uncertainty

Zaragoza • 30 Sept - 1 Oct 2026

PROGRAMME

Last update: 28 September 2026

Day 1 | Wednesday 30 September 2026

9:00 - 9:15	Registration
9:15 - 9:30	Warm-up exercise
9:30 - 10:15	Opening Session: “The future of farming: Who will farm? And under what conditions?” • Raúl Compés López, Director of CIHEAM Zaragoza • Cecilia García Gasalla, Director of Cooperation with Africa and Asia, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) • Ángel Ubieto, Director-General for Rural Development, Government of Aragon (DGA) • Isabel Bombal Díaz, Director-General for Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-Food Training, Government of Spain
10:15 - 10:45	Setting the scene: “Insights from FAO on the status of youth and women in Mediterranean agrifood systems”, Marwan Benali, Social Policy Officer, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP), FAO
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:45	Round Table I — Economic and Productive Dimension: “The economics of farming: profitability, land and access to resources” Moderated by: Vicente Pinilla, Professor of Applied Economics, University of Zaragoza • Elena Schubert, European Commission’s Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) • Faten Adada, Agriculture and Rural Development Expert, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa • Tomás García Azcarate, Associate Researcher at the The Research Centre for the Management of Agricultural and Environmental Risks (CEIGRAM - UPM) • Mario Béjar Fuentes, Senior Project Manager, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15:30	Round Table II — Labour Market and Vocational Training Dimension: “Work in agriculture: labour dynamics, skills and working conditions” Moderated by: Trisha Mandal, Partnership and Communications Manager, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) • Elisenda Estruch Puertas, Rural Economy Specialist for Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Organization (ILO) (<i>online</i>) • Jesús Antón, Head of Unit at Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) • Fatmir Guri, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania (<i>online</i>) • Sarah Bouzar, Research and Policy Synthesis Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Algeria • Carlos Ruíz Ramírez, Project Manager and researcher, Oxfam Intermón



15:30 - 16:15

Case Studies I

Moderated by: Raquel Álvarez Urdiola, Project Manager at CIHEAM Zaragoza

- Antoine Messéan, Terre de Liens
- Roberto Serrano, La Estiva Escuela de Pastoreo de Aragón

16:15 - 17:30

Poster session: "Stories from the field: Meet the people shaping the future of agriculture"

Moderated by: Irene Gavieiro Agud, Project Manager at CIHEAM Zaragoza

- Ana Marcén Murillo, Spain
- Bledar Meta, Albania
- Cécile Pérez-Raynaud, France
- Imen Mefteh, Tunisia
- Sergio Alejandro Urioste Daza, Spain
- Engin Samet Dede, Turkey
- Natasa Bokan, Croatia
- Salem Ghanam, Egypt

(*) Coffee will be served during the poster session

Day 2 | Thursday 1 October 2026

9:00 - 10:30

Round Table III — Social and Cultural Dimension: "Why choose farming? Rural living conditions and the choice of stay"

Moderated by: David Meredith, Senior Research Officer, Head of the AgriFood Social, Behavioural and Spatial Science Department at Teagasc. Coordinator of the SafeHabitat Project.

- Javier Esparcia, Professor of Geography and Dr in Sociology at Universidad de Valencia and co-founder of the Inter-university Institute for Local Development
- Mohamed Taher Sraïri, Senior lecturer at Hassan II Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine
- Carolina Llaquet, President of FADEMUR Aragón
- Majda Černič Istenič, Principal Research Associate at Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZR SAZU)

10:30 - 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 - 12:15

Round Table IV — Organisational and Technological Dimension: "Farming differently: technology, cooperatives and new business models"

Moderated by: Lorena Tudela Marco, Co-founder of Agencia Agroa

- Ángel del Pino, Production and Innovation Director, Anecoop
- Chadi Abdallah, General Secretary at the National Council for Scientific Research, Lebanon (CNRS-L)
- Ana Mamić, Local Action Group Bura, Croatia, (Steering Committee Member, Youth in LEADER (ELARD))
- Rachid Moussadek, Secretary General, National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) Morocco



12:15 - 13:45

Round Table V — Political and Institutional Dimension: “Enabling the next farmers: policies, partnerships and investment for agricultural renewal”

Moderated by: **Marwan Benali**, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP), FAO

- **Stoyan Tchoukanov**, President of the NAT Section at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- **Carolina Gutierrez Ansotegui**, Deputy Director General for Rural Revitalization, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain
- **Eduardo Baamonde Noche**, President of Cajamar
- **Gloria Abouzeid**, Director General of Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon

13:45 - 15:00

Lunch Break

15:00 - 15:45

Case Studies II

Moderated by: Clara Guelbenzu, Head of Communication, Marketing and Documentation at CIHEAM Zaragoza

- **Alessia Mazzù**, Cooperativa Coraggio
- **Marcos Garcés**, Sociologist and young farmer
- **Mokhtar Bouazza**, Gardens of Babylon (*online*)

15:45 - 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 - 16:45

Rapporteurs session: Key takeaways from the symposium

- Round Table 1: **Michel Frem**, Senior Expert in Agricultural Economics at CIHEAM Bari
- Round Table 2: **Julio Urruela**, Administrator at CIHEAM HQ
- Round Table 3: **Raquel Álvarez**, Project Manager at CIHEAM Zaragoza
- Round Table 4: **George Prekatsakis**, Soil Lab Director at CIHEAM Chania
- Round Table 5: **Rubén Expósito**, Consultant at CIHEAM Zaragoza

16:45 - 17:30

Closing session: “Looking ahead: Shaping the future of farming for the next generation”

- **Alun Jones**, Head of Projects, CIHEAM Zaragoza
- **Luis Escorihuela**, EUROCLIMA Programme Specialist in Brussels, Programme Support Unit (FIAP)
- **Giuseppe Provenzano**, Research, Innovation and Employability at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (*online*)
- **Octavi Quintana**, Director of PRIMA Foundation - Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
- **Santiago Morán**, Head of Regional Programs Department with Arab Countries, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)